

TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL OREGON
VETERANS OUTREACH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Central Oregon Veterans Outreach (COVO) for their tireless efforts on behalf of homeless veterans in Oregon's Second District. Since its founding in 2005 by members of the Bend/La Pine Vietnam Veterans of America, COVO has grown from a handful of concerned veterans reaching out to other veterans in the homeless camps around the area to a full-fledged non-profit organization with countless volunteers, a dedicated staff, and a truly professional board of directors.

In the early years of this organization, a small group of Vietnam veterans took it upon themselves to visit homeless camps on the High Desert, providing much needed supplies and support to those veterans who fell upon hard times and were in desperate need of a hand up. Today, COVO has a full time staff that coordinates continuing volunteer efforts to deliver food, water, tents, sleeping bags, clothing, and propane to the region's homeless camps. In addition to making weekly trips with supplies, COVO has transformed a van into a mobile medical clinic that is staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and medical staff who provide free care to the homeless population each week. This is an invaluable service to those in need.

COVO continues to provide free assistance to veterans in the form of benefits claim-filing, bus passes, medical shuttle reservations, and assistance with accessing resources like the HUD VASH housing voucher program and transitional housing at their 6-bed "Home of the Brave" facility. COVO continues to advocate for those veterans who are most in need of assistance and who are unable to be their own voice in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, we like to say, "We will never forget what our veterans have done for our way of life." They put their lives on the line for this country, and we cannot turn our backs on them. Any of them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing COVO for their staunch and invaluable advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable veterans: President Linda Heatley; Secretary/Treasurer Rob Bryce; Directors Susan Steves, Craig Jorgensen, Rickie Gunn, Jerry Chinn, Dan Lauderback, Lauri Imholt, and Dr. Elizabeth Leeburg; Executive Director Chuck Hemingway; Counselors Alex Weiss and Allen Wilson; Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program staff Steve Wilkes, Ruth Clark, and Yvonne Devine; Outreach Coordinator Lisa Miller; Volunteer Coordinator Kim Darling; Office Administrator and DAV Shuttle Coordinator Chuck Man; Housing Manager Steve Haupt, and; Veteran Service Officer Patricia White and VSO Intern Kim Burger.

Mr. Speaker, the staff, board, and volunteers who comprise COVO deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for all they have done and continue to do for the veterans of Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties.

IN HONOR OF CORRINE CODY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corrine Cody, who passed away on Saturday March 3, 2012. Mrs. Cody was originally from Queens, New York, but she moved to Bucks County Pennsylvania with her husband and children in 1966 and remained in Doylestown for 45 years. Corrine worked for the Central Bucks School District for almost 30 years, where she taught elementary students for 15 years, served as principal for several years, and finished her career as a teacher in the gifted program.

Mrs. Cody was incredibly passionate about teaching. One of her greatest accomplishments was creating the Central Bucks School District's program for gifted students. At one point in her career, Corrine actually decided to leave her job as principal at Paul W. Kutz Elementary School because she believed she could do even more to help children reach their full potential. She would go on to become the coordinator of the social studies and science curriculum for all C.B. elementary schools.

Her teaching and activism went beyond the classroom too. Corrine worked closely with the Peace Valley Nature Center to start a program that would teach fifth and sixth graders about clean water, storm water runoff, and other aspects of the Bucks County environment. As a member of the Bucks County League of Women Voters, she was instrumental in the formation of the Kids Voting program in Central Bucks. Corrine also played a huge role in the development of the Doylestown bike and hike trail, which many of my constituents take advantage of today.

Mrs. Cody leaves behind an inspirational legacy on generations of Bucks County children. I am proud and pleased to speak on her behalf today, and am grateful for all that she did for our area.

ROBY ANNOUNCES

CONGRESSIONAL PEANUT CAUCUS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Peanut Caucus that I have co-founded with Representative SAMFORD BISHOP. The caucus will serve as an informal group of Members of Congress dedicated to all issues related to peanuts and the role they play in on our Nation's agriculture industry.

Representative BISHOP and I formed this caucus to promote and support peanut production—a crucial part of the agriculture industry in the Southern States we represent. Representative BISHOP has been a strong force in shaping Federal policies to advance the U.S. peanut industry and ensure it remains competitive. I am grateful for the opportunity to work on this initiative with such a strong advocate.

Agriculture remains the number one industry in my State of Alabama, and has been a top

priority for me since taking office. The peanut industry—specifically—is an essential and recognizable commodity for Alabama. Seven States account for approximately 99% of all peanuts grown in the U.S. Alabama is among the top few States, along with Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi that produces a major share of our Nation's peanut crop.

Our country's reliance on domestic agricultural production is rising with continuous population growth. Peanuts are the 12th most valuable cash crop grown in the United States with a farm value of over one billion dollars. The World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development are both looking at peanuts and peanut producers as vital components in fighting global malnutrition. In addition, the spectrum of new and emerging research related to peanuts and health is broadening quickly. The application of this research may lead to a better understanding of ways to reduce the risk of certain diseases, including Type Two diabetes and some cancers. Therefore, we must ensure that our farmers across the Nation have the resources necessary to maintain successful peanut crops from year to year.

Congressional Caucuses are an important way to increase awareness of principal issues and identify legislative priorities. As Representatives, it is our responsibility to bring the voices of farmers from all over the country to the forefront of the discussion and to ensure that all of their interests are fairly represented. Members of the Peanut Caucus will have the ability to collectively advocate in Congress for peanut farmers and producers of this important crop.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I begin to prepare for the next Farm Bill, we believe it must contain provisions that are beneficial to American farmers, while also maintaining fiscal restraint. With that in mind, it is my hope that this Caucus will serve as a working group for members from our Nation's peanut States and will help streamline communication between Congressional offices. I urge any interested colleague to join us on the Peanut Caucus, and I look forward to working with Chairman LUCAS and the House Agriculture Committee on the next Farm Bill as we consider legislative issues that affect our Nation's peanut farmers.

HEAVY TRUCK TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, nothing is more essential to restoring the economy, revitalizing our communities, and protecting our environment than the effort to rebuild and renew America. The U.S. faces steep infrastructure challenges. Our infrastructure inventory is in poor repair and much of it is outdated—not just decades, but often centuries old. Our effort to rebuild and renew that infrastructure is stalled because of a funding impasse. The Highway Trust Fund nearly exhausted its funding several times recently and it is clear that our existing funding mechanisms are insufficient to meet our current, much less future, needs. Congress must consider new revenue sources to meet our infra-